



East Arkansas Planning and Development District

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July 26, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The East Arkansas Planning and Development District serves twelve counties in the Arkansas Delta. The purpose of the District is to support and promote economic and community development in the counties that we serve.

Our region has so many marketable assets while it simultaneously faces so many barriers to growth. One of those barriers is continuous access to mobile broadband. This vital connection is increasingly important to be competitive in both attracting and retaining businesses and individuals in our region. If this connection is important to the global marketplace – it is critical to the east Arkansas region.

The announced merger between AT&T and T-Mobile would significantly increase the availability of mobile broadband services in rural Arkansas. This would strengthen the competitive ability of many of our rural communities that so desperately need it. The expansion of mobile high-speed services will provide new opportunities for businesses to grow and innovate, and will also allow cutting-edge technologies to be utilized in areas that were previously underserved.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for EAPDD, we urge you to support the deployment of high-speed internet services in all forms, including broadband, cable and wireless. Projects like the AT&T/T-Mobile merger, which improve economic opportunities in our region, should be supported.

Sincerely,

Melissa Rivers
Executive Director